

Roger de Vere ; Hugh de Berneval. Given by the hand of Master R. de Marisco, Archdeacon of Northumberland at Salvat xij day of August in the fourteenth year of Our Reign [1212].

MAGNA CARTA.

THE great Historical Crisis of King *John's* reign which produced MAGNA CARTA—a document upon *thirty-two* subsequent occasions confirmed by Act of Parliament—is familiar to everyone; and of considerable interest and importance. So much has already been written of the circumstances attending the meeting between King *John* and the Barons in *Runnymede* Meadow, on the 15th June, 1215, that it is not necessary to enter upon it very fully here.

JOHN FITZ-ROBERT, with his kinsfolk, *EUSTACE DE VESCY*, and *JOHN DE LACY*, Constable of *Chester*, was prominently concerned with the popular Revolt at the time; and, with his cousin *DE VESCY*, was one of the Baronial Leaders, between whom and the King, the Agreement for the Enforcement of Magna Carta and the Appointment of the Twenty-five Barons was concluded. The following is a translation of this Agreement as enrolled upon the 'Close Roll' for the year 1215; of which enrolment a *colloTYPE* facsimile is given:*

COVENANT for the ENFORCEMENT of MAGNA CARTA in the year 1215.

THIS IS THE AGREEMENT between the Lord *JOHN KING OF ENGLAND*, of the one part; and *ROBERT FITZ-WALTER*, MARSHAL OF GOD AND HOLY CHURCH, in *England*, and *RICHARD*, EARL OF CLARE; *GEOFFREY*, EARL OF ESSEX and GLOUCESTER; *ROGER BIGOD*, EARL OF NORFOLK and SUFFOLK; *SAHER*, EARL OF WINCHESTER; *ROBERT*, EARL OF OXFORD; *HENRY*, EARL OF HEREFORD; and the BARONS below written to wit:—*WILLIAM MARSHAL*, Junior; *EUSTACE DE VESCY*; *WILLIAM DE MOBRAY*; *JOHN FITZ-ROBERT*; *ROGER DE MONTE BEGON*; *WILLIAM DE LANVALAY*; to other Earls and Barons and Freemen of the whole Realm of the other part to wit. That they the Earls and Barons and others before written, shall hold the City of *London* of the Bailiwick of the Lord King, saving in the meantime to the Lord King his farms, rent, &c., till the Assumption of the Blessed *Mary* [15th August] the xvijth year of the Reign of him the King [1215]. And the Lord of *Canterbury* shall hold in like manner of the Bailiff of the Lord King, the Tower of *London* till the aforesaid term, saving to the City of *London* its liberties and free customs; and saving to anyone his right in the custody of the Tower of *London*. And so that in the meantime the Lord King do not place munition or forces in the city aforesaid or in the Tower of *London*. Let there be taken also within the aforesaid terms the Oaths from Twenty-five Barons through all *England* as is contained in the Charter of Liberties granted for the security of the Realm or from the Attornies of the Twenty-five Barons, as is contained in the Letters concerning the Twelve Knights to be chosen to do away with the Evil Customs of the Forests and other things. And moreover within the same term all things which the Earls and Barons and other free men ask from the Lord King which he has said should be surrendered, or which by the twenty-five Barons or by the majority of them have been adjudged should be surrendered, may be surrendered according to the form of the Charter aforesaid. And if these things shall have been done or it has not been the fault of the Lord King that the same things were not done within the aforesaid term then let the City and Tower of *London* be immediately surrendered to the Lord King at the same time, saving to the City aforesaid its Liberties and Free Customs as is afore written. And if these things have not been done and it has been the fault of the Lord King that these things were not done, within the aforesaid term the Barons shall hold the City aforesaid and the Lord Archbishop the Tower of *London*; until the aforesaid things are completed; and in the meantime all of either part shall recover the lands, castles, and vills, which they had at the beginning of the War arisen between the Lord King and the Barons.

* Translated from 'Close Roll,' 17 *John*, membrane 24 d.